

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /066 W

----- 127541

R 302214Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1539

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08182

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS:

SUBJECT: HEIKAL AND BRITISH VIEWS ON EGYPTIAN OPTIONS

1. ON MAY 28 FCO DEPARTMENT HEAD URWICK PULLED OUT A RECENT CABLE FROM CAIRO WHICH HE CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT IN ITS INTERPRETATION OF PROBABLE EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS. IT BEGAN BY BRITISH AMBASSADOR CITING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH HEIKAL IN WHICH HEIKAL SAID SADAT HAS NO FAITH IN GENEVA FORUM AS SUCH, BUT IS COUNTING ON USG SENSITIVITY TO PRODUCE NECESSARY ISRAELI MOVEMENT FOR SETTLEMENT. WHEN ASKED, HEIKAL REPORTEDLY SAID IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF SADAT'S THOUGHTS DID NOT RPT NOT TURN TO WAR IN VIEW OF THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO HIM.

2. BRITISH AMBASSADOR THEN EXAMINED MILITARY OPTION IN SOME DETAIL, COMING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD
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BE UNLIKELY, AT LEAST THIS SUMMER. AMONG OTHER REASONS

GIVEN FOR THIS TIMETABLE IS SADAT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
FORD FOLLOWED BY RABIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JUNE.
NEVERTHELESS, BRITISH AMBASSADOR CONCLUDES THAT EGYPT
WILL WALK TIGHTROPE IN CONTEXT OF CONCILIATION WITH THE
WEST BUT NOT SO DETERMINED ON A PEACEFUL COURSE THAT IT
WILL GIVE UP MILITARY OPTION IN LONGER RUN.

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